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Remarks

Claims 1-24 were pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-11, 15-18, and 21-24 were rejected. Claims 12-14 were withdrawn. Claims 7, 8, 19, and 20 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 12-14 are canceled, claims 1, 4, 5, 22, and 23 are amended, and no claims are added. No new matter is presented.

Finality of Action

Page 5 of the Office action asserted finality because "Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection..." However, the new ground of rejection was applied to claim 2 which had previously been indicated as allowable and which has not been broadened. Thus, finality is believed premature. It is requested that the Office action be replaced with a non-final action permitting Applicant to respond without the constraints inherent in an after-final response. If a petition is required, Applicant so petitions.

Nevertheless, in the interest of advancing examination, the present arguments and amendments are made in view of the restrictions on after-final practice. If these are believed to place the condition in allowance, Applicant requests that no petition be entered and that the case be so allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 8, 19, and 20.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2). The rejection is well taken. The foregoing amendment to claim 1 provides proper antecedent basis. The foregoing amendment to claim 5 is appropriate in view of the amendment to claim 1. The foregoing amendment to claim 4 merely clarifies the identified substrate. Additional amendments to claims 22 and 23 address clear and basic antecedent issues. Applicant thus respectfully traverses the rejection as to the amended claims.

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Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. (US6273612) in view of Okamoto et al. (US6089755). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Ono et al. discloses a crank shaft or crank pin bearing (col. 1, lines 7-8) having a journal with two segments or halves 9 and 10 (col. 5, line 5). A segment has, in one embodiment, a circumferentially varying lubricant concentration (col. 8, line 59-col. 9, line 13). No citations have been provided for asserted teachings of Ono et al.

Okamoto et al. discloses use of a longitudinally-varying bearing material thickness to provide an elastic deformation profile that addresses load fluctuations.

Even if combined, there is still no suggestion for the concentration of claim 3. There is no suggestion that the split segments of the two references in the crank field would yield optimization in the claimed range.

Claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. in view of Okamoto et al. and further in view of Andler (US6139191) Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Andler was cited for the lead/copper combination. There is no suggestion, other than hindsight reconstruction, to make such a change to Ono et al. or Okamoto et al. or their combination.

Claims 9, 15-18, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. in view of Okamoto et al. and further in view of McCreary (US4719818). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

McCreary was cited as disclosing "a bushing and journal pin assembly for a geared turbofan transmission..." Office action, page 4, second paragraph. However, McCreary relates to a turbocharger. However, the admitted prior art cited in the present application may serve the purposes for which McCreary is cited. Nevertheless, there is no suggestion for the proposed combination. For example, there is no suggestion to adopt the split automotive crank bearing construction of Okamoto et al. in the present geared turbofan engine or in the turbocharger of

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McCreary. Supporting of cranks, gears, and turbines all have distinct problems and considerations.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-11 and 15-24 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 13th day of June, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.


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